



**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, December 22, 2009**

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## **Community Help Needed to Care For and Adopt Cats Rescued from Madras**

The Humane Society of Central Oregon (HSCO), and other animal welfare agencies, assisted Jefferson County Animal Control this morning to rescue over 100 cats from a home. HSCO staff arrived back at the shelter mid-afternoon with 31 cats and kittens. HSCO staff, veterinarian and veterinary technicians continue to work through the night evaluating and treating the cats.

“The community can help by opening their heart and home to the cats through adoption, fostering or providing financial assistance to provide veterinary care and treatments for the 31 cats,” Lynne Ouchida, community outreach coordinator stated.

Upon arrival at HSCO the health of the 21 females and 9 male cats ranged from mild upper respiratory to severe health issues for some cats. A few were dehydrated and required immediate fluids. One feline has a ruptured eye ulcer which will require removal of the eye. Another cat will require a tail amputation.

Karen Szymanski noted that “as we care for the cats, we find that not only do they deserve the chance to live in a loving home, many are starving for attention.” Most of the cats are very alert and animated. “If you talk to some, they will roll over, purr and knead with their paws,” says Szymanski.

“This case is a perfect example of what happens when one does not spay and neuter their animals and acquires more animals than they can properly care for,” says Szymanski. Animals require basic care and that includes a financial responsibility that needs considering before bringing an animal into the family. Adoptions from the Humane Society are a great deal because they include the spay or neuter surgery, a donated health exam by a local veterinarian, first vaccination, collar, leash or carrying box, identification tag, one months free pet health insurance, free food and educational materials.

If you are able to open your heart and home to one of these cats, please call 541.382.3537, or come to the Humane Society of Central Oregon at 61170 SE 27<sup>th</sup> Street in Bend. The shelter is still in need of monetary donations for their care and veterinary supplies that include: Frontline or Advantage flea prevention, FELV/FIV snap tests, fluid bags and Acaress for ear mites.) The animal shelter is open Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and closed Sunday.

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